

From: Andy Warner
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 3:49pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Person,

I have been employed by Netscape Communications for nearly five years as a software developer and I've been in the Information Technology field for over 20 years. Microsoft should not be allowed to destroy companies at their will, whenever they feel threatened by new technologies or decide to expand into a new market. Obviously, they can put any company into near bankruptcy, by using the revenue from the monopoly OS business to fund development and give away competing products. Allowing that behavior to continue will dramatically slow the growth rate of new technologies by giving the perception that the profits from those very difficult efforts can easily be taken away by the likes of Microsoft. Anything short of severe punishment will just signal that its ok to steal market share and destroy businesses as a tactic of growing your business. If that were allowed, then any business that has more money than another business can destroy it by simply building a competing product and giving it away until you've put them out of business. Is that the kind of business environment that we are trying to promote in this country? This is a great opportunity to show all businesses that integrity and fairness is a requirement to do business in the United States. That the people of the United States will not allow unfair market take-overs by giving away products to destroy companies. We could now show investors that their investments in new technologies will be protected from the predatory practices of companies like Microsoft.

This is not the time to allow "politics as usual" and hinder the investment in new technologies by showing that once you begin selling your new idea, any larger company can develop a similar product and give it away until your bankrupt. If you wonder where all the investment is in Silicon Valley startups, just think about the signal that we've given investors through the Microsoft trial. Who would want to invest in building new products knowing that if your successful your business will be stolen from you by any wealthy company that has the inclination.

Thanks,
Andy Warner